

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the above-captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A fryer, comprising:

a cooking vessel configured to contain a cooking medium, wherein the cooking vessel comprises at least one wall;

means for heating the cooking medium;

a first temperature sensor which determines a first temperature and generates a first signal indicating the first temperature, wherein the first temperature is a temperature of the cooking medium or a temperature of air within the cooking vessel;

a second temperature sensor which determines a second temperature of the at least one wall and generates a second signal indicating the second temperature; and

means for selectively activating and deactivating the means for heating, based at least on the second temperature, wherein the means for activating and deactivating is a controller electrically coupled to the first temperature sensor and to the second temperature sensor, wherein the means for activating and deactivating controller receives the first signal, receives the second signal, and deactivates the means for heating when at least one predetermined condition is satisfied, wherein the means for selectively activating and deactivating compares the first signal to the second signal to determine a difference between the first temperature and the second temperature and compares the second temperature or the temperature difference to a predetermined temperature and the at least one predetermined condition is at least one condition selected from the group consisting of:

the second temperature is greater than or equal to ~~[[a]]~~ the particular predetermined temperature; and

~~[[a]]~~ the temperature difference between the second temperature and the first temperature is greater than or equal to a predetermined temperature difference.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The fryer of claim 1, wherein the means for selectively activating and deactivating controller also deactivates the means for heating when the first temperature is less than or equal to a further predetermined temperature.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The fryer of claim 2, wherein the particular predetermined temperature is greater than the further predetermined temperature.

Claim 4. (Original) The fryer of claim 3, wherein the particular predetermined temperature is about 232° C.

- Claim 5. (Original) The fryer of claim 1, wherein the predetermined temperature difference is about 78° C.
- Claim 6. (Original) The fryer of claim 1, wherein the means for heating comprises a heater, and the heater comprises a gas burner.
- Claim 7. (Original) The fryer of claim 1, wherein the means for heating comprises a heater, and the heater comprises an electric heating element.
- Claim 8. (Original) The fryer of claim 7, wherein the electric heating element comprises at least one heating coil.
- Claim 9. (Original) The fryer of claim 1, wherein the cooking medium comprises at least one medium selected from the group consisting of an oil, a liquid shortening, and a meltable-solid shortening.
- Claim 10. (Original) The fryer of claim 1, wherein the first temperature sensor is affixed to the at least one wall, and the second temperature sensor is affixed to the at least one wall.
- Claim 11. (Original) The fryer of claim 10, wherein the first temperature sensor is positioned above the second temperature sensor.
- Claim 12. (Original) The fryer of claim 1, wherein the first temperature sensor is affixed to the at least one wall, and the second temperature sensor is affixed to the means for heating the cooking medium.
- Claim 13. (Original) The fryer of claim 12, wherein the first temperature sensor is positioned above the second temperature sensor.
- Claim 14. (Original) The fryer of claim 1, further comprising means for indicating whether the means for heating has been deactivated.
- Claim 15. (Original) The fryer of claim 14, wherein the means for indicating comprises a visually perceivable device.
- Claim 16. (Original) The fryer of claim 15, wherein the visually perceivable device comprises a light emitting device.
- Claim 17. (Original): The fryer of claim 14, wherein the means for indicating comprises an audibly perceivable device.
- Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The fryer of claim 14, wherein the means for selectively activating and deactivating further comprises means for measuring an amount of time and for counting the number of times that the at least one predetermined condition is satisfied and the means for indicating is activated when the at least one predetermined condition is satisfied a predetermined number of times within a predetermined amount of time.

Claim 19. (Original) The fryer of claim 18, wherein the predetermined number of times is about three times, and the predetermined amount of time is about ten minutes.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The fryer of claim 14, wherein the means for selectively activating and deactivating further comprises means for measuring an activation and reactivation cycle time between an activation and a subsequent reactivation of the means for heating after a deactivation of the means for heating and the means for indicating is activated when an amount of time between ~~[[an]]~~ the activation of the means for heating and ~~[[a]]~~ the subsequent reactivation of the means for heating ~~after a deactivation of the means for heating~~ is greater than a predetermined amount of time.

Claim 21. (Original) The fryer of claim 20, wherein the predetermined amount of time is between about 40 seconds and about 70 seconds.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) The fryer of claim 14, wherein the means for selectively activating and deactivating further comprises means for measuring an activation and reactivation cycle time between an activation and a subsequent reactivation of the means for heating after a deactivation of the means for heating and the means for indicating is activated when during a predetermined number of activation and reactivation cycles, a predetermined amount of time is exceeded a predetermined number of times.

Claims 23-53. (Canceled).